

Barbara Henry  
First Selectman  
Town of Roxbury  
Planning & Development Committee  
February 1, 2013

**Re: MANDATE RELIEF**

Thank you for raising bills that recognize the need to reduce, eliminate or freeze numerous unfunded state mandates on municipalities - something COST and others have urged for years. Towns need such "tools" to lower the cost of local government operations - especially during these tough economic times.

I fully support the proposed bills before the committee that call for a **2/3 vote of the General Assembly before enacting any new unfunded mandates: HB-5097, HB-5099, HB-5101, HB-5172, HB-5241, HB-5273, HB-5274, HB-5438, HB-5439, HB-5528, HB-5529, and SB-223.**

The time to act is now – towns can no longer wait for relief from costly, unfunded state mandates. These bills will ensure that lawmakers don't enact new mandates without carefully considering the impact on towns.

**I also urge support for HB-5295 AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSIONS OF EVICTED TENANTS,** which relieves municipalities of the burden of paying for the storage of the personal possessions of tenants who have been evicted or foreclosed upon by private entities. The municipality is not a party to these private transactions and it is therefore unfair to impose these costs on property taxpayers.

In addition, I urge support for **SB-143, HB-5530, and HB-5532,** which will allow towns to save much need funds by posting legal notices on municipal websites. This is a common sense measure that will make it easier for people to keep track of legal notices which can be easily missed in the newspaper.

In addition to the bills before you another mandate you've all certainly heard COST advocate fixing relates to prevailing wage rate requirements. Existing statute imposes thresholds of \$100,000 for renovation and \$400,000 for new construction projects. Local communities are being forced to pay a premium for low-end infrastructure projects. Reporting and other paperwork demands are such that many smaller local companies do not bother to bid on work in their own towns that would be appropriate to their sizes and for which competitive bids could be offered. The existing thresholds are not indexed for inflation and have not been adjusted in almost 20 years. The time has come to help municipalities lower the costs of local building projects by raising the thresholds at which prevailing wage rates kick in.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues.